



October 2014

FICPI Canada Council has been particularly active in the last few months.

Firstly, FICPI Canada hosted the FICPI American-British-Canadian (ABC) meeting in beautiful Barbados. The meeting was a resounding success both for learning and networking. The professional program put together by Vice-President John Knox was top notch. The social activities program was memorable to say the least. Let's just say that every evening we dined outside and the music got everyone dancing. It was great to be amongst FICPI friends.

Secondly, FICPI Canada Council was active in work with CIPO. We responded to multiple consultations including a call for comments on the implementation of the Madrid, Singapore and Nice (treaty/protocols) with submissions to the Canadian Senate Banking Committee by Past President Robert Storey and Treasurer and FICPI International Vice-President Coleen Morrison.

Thirdly, FICPI Canada presented a submission to CIPO in relation of upcoming amendments to Chapter 13, MOPOP. In a strongly worded letter FICPI Canada expressed disappointment over the short time frame (2 weeks in July) for reply and expressed substantive disagreement with the proposal which adopts a "problem-solution" approach to claim interpretation which is not well grounded in Canadian legislation or case law. In fact, we indicated that the way that CIPO is conducting

claim interpretation has the effect of wrongfully denying patents to meritorious inventions and in fact causing harm to the Canadian innovation economy.

Fourthly, FICPI Canada has been quite involved in an IP Modernization project with CIPO. Stephen Perry and your President served on a sub-committee focusing on improvements to the professional entrance examinations and the continued education of agents. We were also active on sub-committees focusing on the registry of agents and the introduction of a Code of Conduct. FICPI Canada members Joan Van Zant, Stephen Beney, John Orange (FICPI International Past President), just to name a few, played important roles. The ensuing report is now available for review and comments as this link: <http://www.cipo.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipointernet-internetopic.nsf/eng/wr03848.html>

Fifthly, FICPI Canada will once again host a claim drafting clinic on November 22-23 in Toronto for those recently entering the profession. I strongly encourage you to send those who will write the Patent Agent Examination. Registration is open for those in private practice or practicing in corporate or university environments. Please disseminate the invitation presently on the website. Warm thanks to our volunteer tutors and a special mention to Anna Wilkinson for heading the Clinic so well.

As we look ahead, let's expect new legislative initiatives in the design and patent areas. FICPI Canada will once again be at the forefront of the consultation process and will be working on preserving the values and efforts of this great profession.

The next FICPI International activities will be an Open Forum in Barcelona, November 5-8th and a World Congress in Capetown on April 15-17, 2015. Please make every effort to attend these great meetings.

I personally want to thank all FICPI Canada members and particular my fellow Council members for their hard work and dedication. Your energy and participation are what make FICPI a unique organization capable of "punching above its weight".

Your 2012-2015 Council:

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I have the privilege of acting as your President. With your support, feedback and participation we can make a difference. Please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on FICPI Canada Council. Your suggestions and input are always welcome.

Fearing that I will not write again before 2015, please receive, in advance, my very best wishes for the upcoming Holidays and for a happy, healthy and prosperous year 2015.

Alain M. Leclerc,
President
FICPI CANADA